United Nations A/C.1/53/L.50

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
26 October 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71 (i)
General and complete disarmament: convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

South Africa*: draft resolution

Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly, by consensus, of its resolution 52/38 F of 9 December 1997 on the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 I of 15 December 1994, 50/70 F of 12 December 1995 and 51/45 C of 10 December 1996,

Recalling also that, there has been a consensus to do so in each case, three special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament were held in 1978, 1982 and 1988, respectively,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, and the objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Welcoming the recent positive changes in the international landscape, characterized by the end of the cold war, the relaxation of tensions at the global level and the emergence of a new spirit governing relations among nations,

Taking note of paragraph 145 of the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, which supported the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which would offer an opportunity to review, from a perspective more in tune with the current international situation, the most

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement

98-32303 (E) 271098

critical aspects of the process of disarmament and to mobilize the international community and public opinion in favour of the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of the control and reduction of conventional weapons,

Taking note also of the report of the 1998 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission on the item entitled "Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament",

Desiring to build upon the substantive exchange of views on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament during the 1998 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission,

Reiterating its conviction that a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament can set the future course of action in the field of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Emphasizing the importance of multilateralism in the process of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Noting the recent accomplishments made by the international community in the field of weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional arms, following years would be opportune for the international community to start the process of reviewing the state of affairs in the entire field of disarmament and arms control in the post-cold-war era,

Reaffirming the need to continue to press for further steps leading to the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament with the participation of all Member States of the United Nations as well as the need for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament to, *inter alia*, review and assess the implementation of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

1. *Decides*, subject to the emergence of a consensus on its objectives and agenda, to convene the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

2. *Endorses* the report of the 1998 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission and recommends that an item entitled "Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament" be included in the agenda of the Commission at its 1999 session, which should promote agreement on the agenda and timing of the special session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament" and, subject to the outcome of the deliberations at the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, to set an exact date for and to decide on organizational matters relating to the convening of the special session.